

## DEFINITIONS

Certainly, God's intent from the beginning was His culture of life, and that intent includes our health and the care of our health by caring for our bodies and eating what He gave us for food, originally a vegetarian diet.

Let's look at these modern-day definitions of health and healthcare. I don't think they miss the mark on what God intended these words to mean.

**Health:** The condition of being sound in body, mind, or spirit; especially: freedom from physical disease or pain. (Merriam-Webster)

**Healthcare:**

1. The field concerned with the maintenance or restoration of the health of the body or mind.
2. Any of the procedures or methods employed in this field. (Dictionary.com)

We must understand these definitions and be firm in what God intended in His culture of life. If we are not clear on these things, we will be very confused when the world uses positive terms like these to describe something evil. We all have our views on issues based on what we have heard or read or experienced. Whatever our beliefs, they feel right to us based on what we know up to this point in time. But our views may not be aligned with those of our Creator God. While the church may approach the subject of the sanctity of human life at arm's length, most churches don't teach about it because it is assumed we know what we need to know. We are more likely to hear more about how the world defines life.

The world uses these terms, life, health, and healthcare, but their definitions are completely different. The terminology is deceptive because they say things like, "Life doesn't begin until birth." They say abortion should be available for the "health" of the mother. Since it is provided in a medical setting, it is commonly referred to as a form of "healthcare." You've heard it said that it is a private matter, between the woman and her doctor." It is far more than that!

Truthfully, abortion does not qualify under the definitions of health and healthcare. Ever.

Pregnancy is not a disease but falls under healthcare because it is a distinct condition of health. The baby carried in a woman's womb is a completely separate human being with his/her own health concerns. That baby's health is in great danger if the woman's "healthcare" includes possible abortion.

People who believe abortion is an acceptable practice call themselves pro-choice. They use this word to signify that women should be allowed to choose abortion, but they rarely offer any other choices. The very word, choice, assumes there is an alternative. Pro-life people, on the other hand, use the word choice to signify that a woman can choose life as easily as they can choose death. Pro-life people also assume that every woman who has an abortion chooses to do so, when as you'll learn from this course, both the word and the concept are quite muddled in this situation. Neither camp uses the word choice in a realistic manner.

## Get EQUIPPED: Redemptively Overcoming Abortion in the Church

### SESSION 2 – PRE-CLASS READING

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Abortion, though considered “empowerment” in worldly terminology, is the antithesis of empowerment for the very reason that it tells a woman she cannot manage what life brings her way. It is also unlike any other medical procedure because the woman does not get to see the doctor till she is lying on her back prepped for the procedure and receives no aftercare. With chemical abortions, she will likely never see a physician at all. The medical industry has changed the definition of abortion by calling this barbaric procedure, whether surgical or chemical, “healthcare,” and then they deny the increasing horrific results. None of this is even remotely part of God’s culture of life!